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Dated: January 22, 2007

Signature: *Lawrence E. Russ*

(Lawrence E. Russ)

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Group Art Unit: 2157

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-748

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: :  
:   
Toshiyuki Arai :   
:   
Application No.: 09/781,496 : Group Art Unit: 2157  
:   
:   
Filed: February 12, 2001 : Examiner: B. N. Burgess  
:   
:   
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS :   
AND METHOD :

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1-9, and 20, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: